

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03004 291018Z

11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 290910Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1052

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T JIDDA 3004

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, IS

SUBJECT: SAUDI ALARM AT ISRAELI AIR INCURSIONS AND RECENT STATE-
MENTS

REF: A. TEL AVIV 2450 B. TEL AVIV 2437 C. JIDDA 2881

D. TEL AVIV A-38 OF 2/27/75

1. WE CANNOT VOUCH FOR WHAT ISRAELI OFFICIALS ACTUALLY SAID TO HIM, BUT ONE RECENT SENATORIAL VISITOR TOLD US, AND SAID HE HAD ALSO TOLD PRINCE FAHD, THAT ISRAELI OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PERES, SAID TO HIM THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE FORCED TO MOVE AGAINST AND OCCUPY NORTHERN SAUDI ARABIA IN THE EVENT OF ANOTHER WAR. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IF ANY OTHER RECENT VISITORS TO ISRAEL MIGHT HAVE GIVEN FAHD THE SAME MESSAGE.

2. THE SAUDIS ARE ALSO SURPRISINGLY (IF UNEVENLY) INFORMED ABOUT WHAT IS BEING SAID INSIDE ISRAEL. AN EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF THING WHICH WE MUST ASSUME THE SAUDIS ARE AWARE OF AND MAKES THEM NERVOUS WAS REPORTED IN TEL AVIV'S PRESS SUMMARY FOR APRIL 24 (REF B, PARA 13) "...ISRAEL MUST ALSO KEEP AN EYE ON SAUDI ARABIA AND MAINLY WATCH ACTIVITIES OPPOSITE EILAT, IN THE GULF OF EILAT AND OPPOSITE THE TIRAN STRAITS...A FEW YEARS AGO ISRAEL MADE A GESTURE TOWARD WASHINGTON BY EVACUATING SNAPIR (SIC-SINAFIR) ISLAND...ISRAEL WILL BE FORPCD TO

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REOCCUPY SNAPIR IF SAUDI ARABIA UNDERTAKES ANY NAVAL

OR OTHER ACTIVITIES
IN THE REGION."

3. WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO JUDGE ISRAELI INTENTIONS.
PERHAPS THEY ARE ONLY SENDING SIGNALS TO THE SAUDIS BY
WAY OF WARNING NOT TO BECOME TOO CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH
THE CONFRONTATION STATES. WHATEVER THE INTENT, THEY HAVE
SUCCEEDED IN AGITATING THE TOP LEVEL OF THE SAG INCLUDING
PFINCE FAHD. THEY ARE UNFORTUNATELY ALSO IMPINGING ON
VERY VITAL US INTERESTS IN SAUDI ARABIA.
AKINS

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